

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is of the following type:

- ☒ original
- ☐ divisional
- ☐ continuation
- ☐ continuation-in-part

INVENTORSHIP IDENTIFICATION

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name. I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

FORMATION OF A TANTALUM-NITRIDE LAYER

SPECIFICATION IDENTIFICATION

The specification of which:

- ☒ is attached hereto
- ☐ was filed on _____, under Serial No. _____, executed on even date herewith; or
- ☐ Express Mail No. (as Serial No. not yet known) _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable)
- ☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. _____ filed on _____ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on _____.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information I know to be material to patentability in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56,

and which is material to the examination of this application; namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, and

- ☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with 37 CFR §1.98.

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[X] No such applications have been filed.

A. Prior foreign/PCT application(s) filed within 12 mos. (6 mos. for design) prior to this application, and any priority claims under 35 U.S.C. §119

B. All foreign application(s), if any, filed more than 12 mos. (6 mos for design) prior to this U.S. application

C. U.S. Provisional Application filed within 12 months prior to this application

PRIORITY CLAIM (35 U.S.C. §120)

[X] No such applications have been filed
[] Such applications have been filed, as follows:

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POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and, further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Sec. 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

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Inventor's signature: Sean Seutter Date: 2/1/2001

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Full name of **third** inventor: MING XI

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(Declaration ends with this page)

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